

The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

September 1990



Members' Meetings *The Mystery of Madagascar*

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2 & 7:30
Thursday, Sept. 20, 7:30



Baobab
tree

Dr. Terry Gosliner

Madagascar has been separated from the African mainland for 100 million years. As a result of this isolation, many unique plant and animal species have evolved. Madagascar is larger than California and has many diverse habitats—from tropical rain forest to lowland desert and coral reefs. Dr. Terry Gosliner, the Academy's Director of Research, has traveled to Madagascar's extensive coastline to study its marine fauna.

In his slide/lecture presentation, Dr. Gosliner will take you to the many habitats of this island and delineate the different mechanisms that have shaped the evolution of Madagascar's unique biota. He will also describe the native nudibranchs he has discovered there as well as the other diverse wildlife of the area. Although the forests of Madagascar are being ravaged, there is recent cause for optimism due to political and conservation efforts. It is still possible to save the distinct and irreplaceable species that inhabit this island paradise.

Lecture Series *Exploring The Universe*



Asteroid

This series of free lectures, made possible by the Benjamin D. Dean Endowment Fund, features leading scientists who use the unique environment of the Planetarium to illustrate their latest research results, current events in astronomy and space sciences, and future space missions.

- **October 2** — "Near Earth Asteroids: The Source of Meteorites," Dr. Dale Cruikshank, Space Scientist, Astrophysics Branch, NASA/Ames Research Center.
- **November 6** — "Radio Astronomy: Another Way to View the Planets," Dr. Imke de Pater, Associate Professor, Astronomy Department, U.C. Berkeley.
- **December 4** — "Gravitational Lenses and Dark Matter: Weighing the Matter in the Universe," Dr. Vahé Petrosian, Professor, Center for Space Science and Astrophysics, Stanford University.

All lectures start at 7:30 pm. Free tickets are available in advance with a limit of two tickets per request. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: "The Universe", Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. Please indicate the program(s) you wish to attend and the number of tickets. For more information, call 750-7129.

Adult Education

Celebrate Yosemite: Photographing the Autumn Faces of Yosemite



Stephen C. Johnson

Join us as we explore Yosemite's amazing diversity under the mantle of fall color and light. Autumn in Yosemite offers photographers a wide variety of opportunities. As the weather cools and the Park begins to change, subtle and beautiful colors emerge. Bright greens turn to yellow, brown, black and gold. The air feels fresher – its clean smell invigorating us for the hiking we'll do during this intensive five-day workshop.

We will have the rare pleasure of exploring the Park from a regional perspective. Starting in Yosemite's spectacular high country (two nights at Lee Vining), we will move on to photograph the grandeur of the Valley (two nights at the Lodge), with our last day capturing the magic of the Giant Sequoia forest (one night at the Wawona Hotel).

Our instructor, Stephen Johnson, has been leading photography workshops for the Academy for many years. He was the Curator and Editor/Designer of "At Mono Lake," a book and exhibition, and co-directed the "Great Central Valley Project."

**October 9-14, 1990
(Tuesday-Sunday)**

Cost: \$300 members

\$325 non-members

Includes five nights lodging, five box lunches, and extensive instruction. (Does not include transportation or other meals.) For more information, call 750-7100.

Lecture
The California Academy of Sciences and
the World Wildlife Fund Present Dr. Norman Myers:

“Extinction: Why We Should Care, What We Can Do”

Tuesday, October 16 Reception: 6 pm Lecture: 7:30 pm



Trail light gap, Costa Rica

Renowned environmentalist, Dr. Norman Myers, will be discussing some of the most crucial issues of our time as he explores the multifarious issues surrounding tropical deforestation.

Since tropical forests harbor at least 50 percent and possibly the great bulk of Earth's species, these forests are critical to ensuring the diversity of the planet. Dr. Myers examines key factors: in which countries is deforestation occurring, how fast, who is doing the damage, and what are some of the covert factors at work—how much do we all, through our consumer lifestyles, have our hands on the chainsaws at work?

Dr. Myers also looks at how this mega-extinction compares with others of the prehistoric past—for instance, the mass dinosaur extinction of 65 million years ago. And what will be the impact on the future course of evolution? Most importantly, Dr. Myers will point out that this single generation can still save millions of species. It is a great creative challenge for scientists, conservationists and citizens alike.

Dr. Myers has published hundreds of articles in scientific journals and popular publications. He has written six books, most notably *The Primary Source* and *The Gaia Atlas of Planet Management*.

Join us on October 16 for this special presentation on a critical topic. Tickets for the reception and lecture are \$15 for members and \$17 for non-members. The lecture alone is \$3 and \$5. Please use the convenient order form below to order your tickets.

Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Special Programs Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

October 4 “Farallon Islands”

Lecture only:

____ \$3 members ____ \$5 guests

Reception and Lecture:

____ \$15 members ____ \$17 guests

October 15 “Extinction”

Lecture only:

____ \$3 members ____ \$5 guests

Reception and Lecture:

____ \$15 members ____ \$17 guests

Lecture Natural History of the Farallon Islands

Thursday, October 4

Reception 6 pm

Lecture 7:30 pm



The Great Arch

Twenty-six miles off the coast of San Francisco is one of the largest and most diverse marine wildlife colonies in North America – the Farallon Islands.

Through the years, many of the birds and mammals that live here have been threatened by oil spills, military target practice, atomic waste disposal, gill netting, and unregulated urchin and abalone fishing. Since 1968, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, under contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has maintained a research station on the Islands.

The Academy, with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, is proud to present a reception, lecture and booksigning with Dr. David Ainley, Director of Marine Studies at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Dr. Ainley has conducted research on the Farallon Islands for over 15 years and is the principle author of the book *Seabirds of the Farallon Islands, Ecology and Dynamics of an Upwelling-System Community*.

Join us on Thursday, October 4 for a look at this rare and distinct marine habitat. The reception and lecture are \$15 for members and \$17 for nonmembers. The lecture alone is \$3 and \$5. Please use the convenient order form to order your tickets.

Academy Research

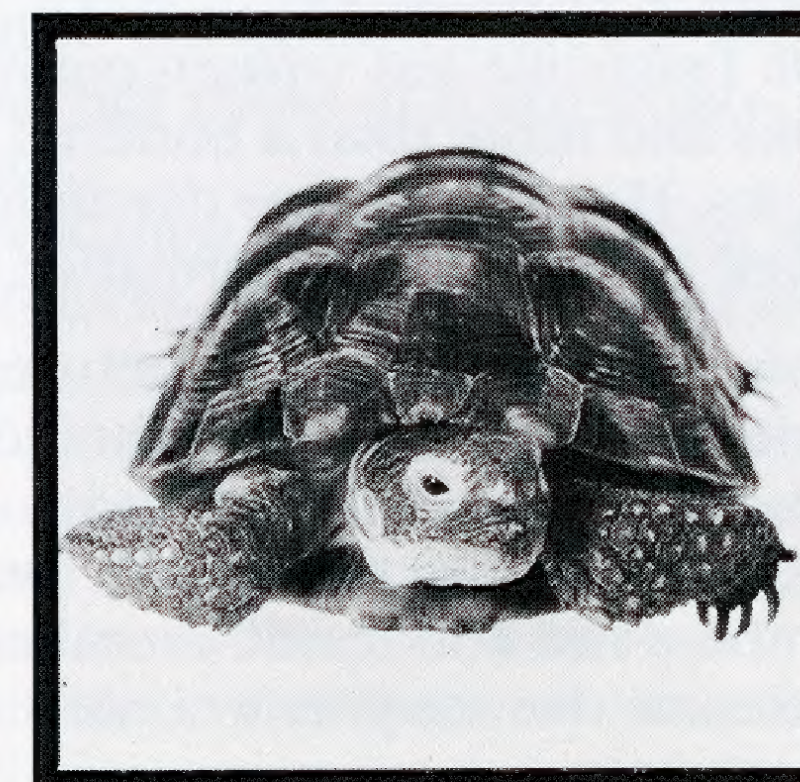


Luis F. Baptista, Chairman of Ornithology and Mammalogy received an Honourable Mention in the distinguished “Spirit of Enterprise” 1990 Rolex Awards. This prestigious award was presented to Dr. Baptista for his project entitled, “Reintroducing the Socorro Dove to Its Island Home.”

John McCosker, Director of the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium, recently hosted a forum entitled, “Roles for Scientists as Advocates for Structural Reform in Schools.” This forum was sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences, the New York Academy of Sciences and the Institute for Educational Leadership.

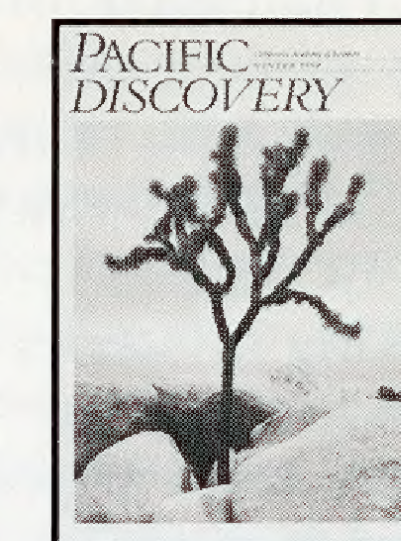
Lonny Baker, Morrison Planetarium Education Coordinator, just returned from The International Planetarium Society's bi-annual meeting in Borlange, Sweden. Representatives of planetariums from around the world met to discuss various facets of planetarium programming and management.

Brett C. Stearns, Academy Legal Counsel, has been selected to chair the Special Group on Turtles and Tortoises for the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. The purpose of this group is to advise and make recommendations to the AAZPA regarding global conservation matters concerning turtles and tortoises.



Academy Publications Honored

The American Association of Museums recently honored several Academy publications at its annual conference. *Pacific Discovery* was honored for the Winter 1990 issue. Devoted entirely to the imperiled California Desert, the issue was edited by Sarah Pollock, designed by Susan Schneider with articles written by Gordy Slack and Blake Edgar. The Academy Ball invitation, designed by Patricia Thornton, also received an award. The third award honored the publication *Research at the California Academy of Sciences*. Edited by Dr. Daphne G. Fautin and coordinated by Mary Christine Cunningham, this publication describes the work of Academy scientists from the nine different research departments and gives a historical perspective on the development of the Academy.



Award-winning
issue of
*Pacific
Discovery*.

Recent Gifts

The Academy would like to acknowledge the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Grand for the Department of Anthropology to purchase ethnic minority Chinese textiles for the collection. With these funds, the department has acquired a number of textiles representing several cultural groups from the Guizhou Province in China, including pieces that document ancient decorative techniques that have only recently disappeared. These pieces are a significant addition to the Department's small, but growing collection of Asian minority materials and reflect the Academy's strong interest in Pacific Basin cultures.

Looking For Answers?

- How can I increase my retirement income?
- Where can I find relief from asset management worries?
- What can I do to provide for my spouse?
- Is there a way to avoid capital gains taxes?
- How can I diversify my investments?
- Can I improve my family's income?

Yes! We have some answers for you. A Life Income Trust can answer all of these questions and create benefits for you while making a significant future gift to the Academy. Write or call for our informative brochures or for specific answers to your questions:

Development Office
Life Income Program
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 750-7216

____ Please send me your information on Life Income Trusts.

____ Please call me, I have some specific questions.

Name: _____

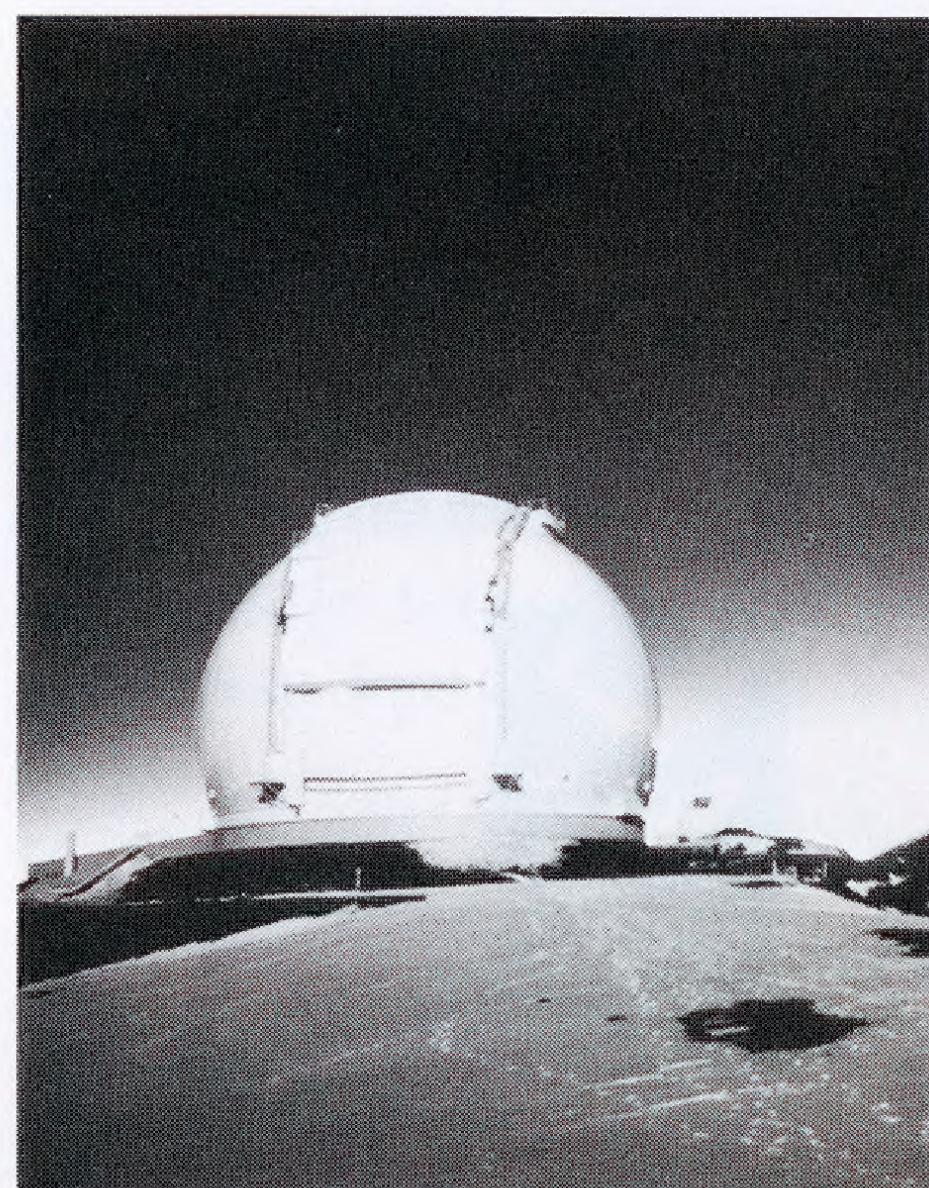
Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Cowell Hall Closure

Don't forget that Cowell Hall is now closed for seismic reconstruction. Please use the side entrance near Gem and Mineral Hall when entering from the Music Concourse. From Middle Drive, the Wattis Hall entrance is still open. Look for our new brochure which will help guide you through the Academy during this time of construction. The remodeled Cowell Hall is scheduled to open in the spring of 1991. Thank you for your patience.

Exhibit
Space Places:
Photography by
Roger Ressmeyer
September 29–February 3



Roger Ressmeyer

Keck Dome by moonlight

The outposts of space have beckoned to the adventurous from time immemorial. **Space Places**, a new exhibit in Oceans Hall, is an extraordinary photographic record that depicts the human dimensions of space exploration and astronomical study around the world. **Space Places** chronicles the 20-year odyssey of noted space photographer Roger Ressmeyer, traveling to those special places where the human fascination with the universe has caused us to push ourselves and our technology almost beyond the limits of imagination. From Kublai Khan's 13th-century observatory in Beijing to the giant Keck Telescope atop Hawaii's Mauna Kea, Ressmeyer has compiled a stunning portrait of how far we have traveled and what lies ahead in space exploration.

Featuring photographs from the just-released book of the same title, **Space Places** is an evocation of the people and technologies that are changing the course of our lives. **Space Places**, the new full-color book by Collins Publishers, is available in the Academy Store for \$45.

First Wednesday
Evening Program
September 5

Celebrate the heritage of our neighbors south of the border as we focus on Mexico and Latin America for our September program. Come to the Cactus Cantina Bar and listen to Trio Michoacan sing Mexican folk music. Hear about the natural history of Mexico at the Science in Action stage. Relax in the Morrison Planetarium and enjoy the soothing musical strains of the Concert Under the Stars.

It all happens from 5–8 pm on September 5. These special Wednesday night programs are made possible through a generous grant from The Bernard Osher Foundation.

Ethnovideo

The Anthropology Department's Traditional Arts Program has recently started a video documentation project recording folk art performances and demonstrations in the museum and also using video for ethnographic fieldwork. These videos are added to our archival resource files. Does anyone have a camcorder to kindly donate? We would gladly accept either VHS or 8mm. If you can make Santa Claus come early this year, please contact June Anderson at 750-7164.

Planetarium
Closing for 1 Month

The Morrison Planetarium will be closed from September 11 through October 11 for a scheduled repair of the star projector. We will re-open on October 12 with our new show, "Sister Worlds." Additionally, there will be no Laserium shows during this time. We regret any inconvenience this may cause our members, and look forward to seeing you under the starry skies of Morrison Planetarium in October.

Traditional Arts
Programs



Travel the world and experience other cultures without leaving home! Traditional Arts programs introduce visitors to the far corners of the world every Saturday at 1 pm in Wattis Hall or Morrison Auditorium. These programs are made possible through a generous gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation and are free after general admission. For more information call 750-7142.

Sept. 8 — Santa Perfitt, from the village of Todos Santos Cochumatan in Guatemala, demonstrates weaving on the backstrap loom. The patterns, colors and design motifs are characteristic of the Mam people — one of the Indian linguistic groups in the northern highlands.

Sept. 15 — Jemmy and Evo Bluestein present a special program for children "An Introduction to American Folk Instruments." The performance emphasizes the multi-cultural influences on American music and includes Cajun accordion, Appalachian dulcimer and autoharp, Mexican guitar, Irish fiddle and African-American banjo. They will also demonstrate clogging, jaw harp, spoons and penny-whistle.

Sept. 22 — John Pedersen performs a medley of Irish tunes on the uilleann pipes. These differ from the Highland bagpipes in that the air bag is activated by bel-lows under the arm. (Uilleann means "elbow" in Gaelic.)

Special Program
Film Arts at the Academy

Tuesday, September 25, 7 pm



Bob Walker

On September 25, from 7–9:30 pm, The California Academy of Sciences, with the Film Arts Foundation, is proud to screen three unusual films.

Secrets of the Bay, which made its world premiere at the Academy in the spring, returns to highlight the evening's films. This visually stunning environmental film reveals the magnificent wildlife hidden among the six million inhabitants of the Bay Area. From the precarious nesting site of an endangered peregrine falcon to a slow-motion shorebird ballet, this film showcases the diverse wonders of the Bay. The talented creators of this film, Chris Beaver and Judy Irving, will be on-hand to describe their efforts.

In Frank Stauffacher's **Notes on the Port of St. Francis**, the visual poetry of the people and places of San Francisco circa 1950 is complemented by Vincent Price's narration from the 1882 writings of Robert Louis Stevenson.

The third film, **The Other Bridge**, combines the construction, design and operation of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge into a unique artistic vision. It uncovers engineering mysteries in layman's terms, and reveals the bridge as one of the most important man-made structures in America.

Tickets for the special showing of these three films are \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Please use the convenient ticket order form below.

Ticket Order Form

___ September 25 Film Arts at the Academy

___ October 18 The Plight of the Giant Grebe

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

___ \$3 member tickets

___ \$5 guest tickets

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Special Programs Office
 California Academy of Sciences
 Golden Gate Park
 San Francisco, CA 94118

No refunds/No exchanges

Lecture
The Plight of the
Giant Grebe:
Ecology and
Politics in
Central America

Thursday, October 18
7:30 pm



Picture collection/CAS

The giant pied-billed grebe

Journey into the Guatemalan highlands to learn about the imperiled status of the giant grebe. Complex ecological and sociological pressures have drastically affected this flightless waterbird.

Dr. Anne LaBastille has studied this area for 24 years, examining the impact of factors ranging from the 1976 earthquake to tourism. The intricacy of the political and economic situation mirrors the conditions found in many other parts of the world where native wildlife is endangered.

Dr. LaBastille has written many books and more than a hundred articles. Her lectures are dynamic as well as extremely informative.

Join us for this moving lecture on the biological impoverishment of the giant grebe of Guatemala. Tickets for this lecture are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Please use the coupon to order your tickets.

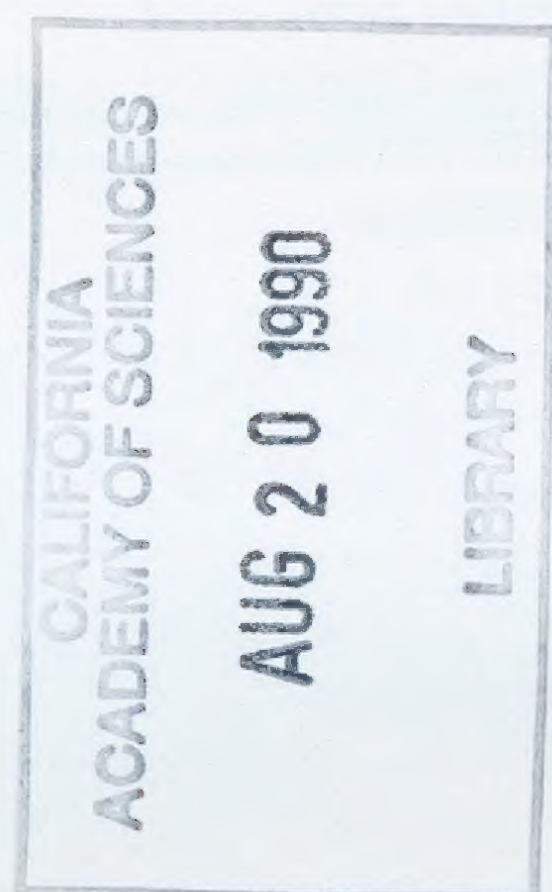
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September 1990

Open daily 10 am to 5 pm

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San Francisco, California 94118-4599*



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San Francisco*

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Calendar of Events

September

- 5 First Wednesday night, until 8:45 pm
- 8 Traditional Arts, 1:00 pm
- 11 Planetarium closes for 1 month
- 15 Traditional Arts, 1:00 pm
- 19 Members' Meeting, "The Mystery of Madagascar,"
2 pm & 7:30 pm
- 20 Members' Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 22 Traditional Arts, 1:00 pm
- 25 Film Arts at the Academy, 7:00 pm
- 29 "Space Places" exhibit opens

October

- 4 Lecture, "The Farallones," 6 pm
- 10 Members' Meetings, 2 pm & 7:30 pm
- 11 Members' Meetings, 7:30 pm
- 12 Planetarium re-opens
- 16 Lecture, "Extinction," 6 pm
- 18 Lecture, "Giant Grebe," 7:30 pm

The Academy Store



Once again, artist Pedro Gonzales creates outstanding artwork for our very own Tropical Rain Forest Mug Set. These vivid new mugs feature four images of rain forest life, including the keel-billed toucan, jaguar, red-eyed tree frog, and the scarab beetle. Both common and scientific names are imprinted on these white ceramic mugs with colorful images which will be a beautiful addition to your table or a delightful way to sip your morning coffee.

The Tropical Rain Forest Mug Set is now available at the Academy Store for only \$24.95. Stop by soon for your own set and several more as gifts!